

RARITAN VALLEY ART ASSOCIATION Established 1939

December 2004 NEWSLETTER

President: Linda Arnold
Newsletter: Diana Patton
497 Stony Brook Dr.
Bridgewater, 08807

Tremendous Holiday Greetings!

Can you believe it's November already? This Newsletter will have to do you until January—so your editor is greeting you for all the upcoming holidays! Wow! So much celebration to come! And we know you'll want to come to our next meeting on Monday, November 22, 7:30 pm, at the Somerset County Library, when we will be enjoying a very different sort of meeting. Our speaker, Phyllis Rackow, Director of Contact Lenses Services with the Princeton Eye Group, is an experienced lecturer throughout the United States and Canada, whose articles have been published in various trade magazines, including her piece "Art and the Eye". Phyllis will be talking and using video presentations to show us and explain to us "The World through Blunted Sight". We will be getting special glimpses into the world of the artist as he matures. Is the artist changing his style as he ages? Or does the artist actually **SEE THE WORLD IN A DIFFERENT WAY** than he/she used to? Vision to an artist may be very different as the artist ages—how did VanGogh, Monet, and Renoir change—their style, their vision? We will **SEE** and **LEARN** a great deal this night and get a real behind-the-scenes viewpoint of artists in general and some artists in particular. Our thanks to Gay Billich for bringing Phyllis to us and also to Debbie Hughes for bringing the all-important video projector to us. Gay will also be providing refreshments!

You'll want to go to the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission Gallery at the Somerset County Administration Building, Grove Street, Somerville to see our terrific show "**Mixed Media Mania**"! Gay Billich worked really hard on this (and Mary Ann Creasy helped her a lot on Receiving Day) and our thanks to both of them. Participating artists will be receiving postcard announcements in the mail to send to friends, but you all can go right now and see the work of participating artists Linda Arnold, Doug Axmann, Doris Bateman, Catherine Bebbington, Ken Bernhard, Gay Billich, Mary Ann Creasy, Eleanor DeMott, Sherry Engleberg, Barbara Fiorentino, Bill Gilbert, Laurie Gugliotta, Jacquie Pasternak Mazur, Diana Wilkoc Patton, Elizabeth Ryman, Rosalie Stern, and Sonja Weir. The show runs until Friday, December 10th, at which point the artists will please come to pick up their works at 10 am! Thank you, Gay!

Elsewhere in this Newsletter will be information and a form for our special show at the Bernardsville Public Library in January 2005. Our thanks to Audrey Wreszin and Ken Bernhard for co-chairing this event! Are we busy, or are we busy!

And now to our **HOLIDAY EVENTS!**

Doug Axmann is our Chairman for our great **HOLIDAY DINNER**. This is the once-a-year dinner and sharing of ideas and great food and conversation at the lovely McCarthy's Restaurant (from 22E take a right onto Finderne Ave., go to the intersection of Main St. and Finderne, turn right, and almost immediately McCarthy's will be on your left). This will be on **Monday, December 13th**. We will start at 6 pm with cash bar and "combo platter appetizers" and then will come our dinner with the unbelievably huge salad bar, the entrée (you'll have several great choices when you get there, like chicken Francaise, a steak or prime ribs, a pasta (vegetarian) dish, a fish dish), and desert and coffee/tea. Yes, we will repeat the White Elephant Extravaganza. You know, bring a holiday-wrapped white elephant or small price (\$5. or so) gift, and you get to take one home (tether those elephants!). We encourage the telling of holiday anecdotes and stories and we'll be sure to have our rollicking good time! The price is still only \$26. and you may send a check made out to RVAA to Doug Axmann, 16 Schoolhouse Lane, Somerville, NJ, 08876. A form is enclosed in this Newsletter. For further info, Doug is at 908/722-1925. And thank you, Doug!

Holiday Show and Sale at the Somerset Library is upon us. Really! As in the past, the "rules" and the form are enclosed in this Newsletter. Your editor is the Chairwoman and reminds you that spaces are assigned first come, first served, in other words, by the postmark on your form, which should be sent ASAP. We encourage those artists with racks to loan them, since we share them with those who don't own racks. In the past, smaller works and/or those with smaller prices, sell better. You may bring portfolios, cards, small stuff, to sell while you showsit. 10% of the sale price goes to the library. RVAA has been doing this show since the library opened and while sales do reflect the state of the economy to a certain extent, it has usually gone well. Even if you don't participate, you will really want to view this great showcase of what usually turns out to be about 200 works or more. The racks will be delivered Wednesday night, December 1st, and the paintings Thursday night, December 2nd. Mary Ann Creasy will be helping me that evening. Thank you very much, Mary! Oh, yes, the entry fee is \$10. made out to RVAA and mailed to Diana at 497 Stony Brook Drive, Bridgewater, NJ 08807 (908)722-0562

RVAA wants to wish our fellow member Florence White all the best in her recovery from several operations on her feet; she's been through a lot and we all wish her well. We also want to extend our sympathy and prayers to member Fran Marell who just lost her sister in Florida in a tragic accident.

UPCOMING MEETINGS President Linda Arnold has been given the available dates for the first half of 2005 from the Somerset County Library. Looking ahead, RVAA will have meetings/demonstrations on January 31, (Tuesday) February 15, March 28, April 25, and May 23. All meetings are on Monday at 7:30 pm, except for February's.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

GAY BILLICH has had her work accepted into the Garden State Watercolor Society Associate Members' Juried Exhibition which is at the Triangle Art Center in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. Gay also has her work accepted into the National Collage Society's 20th Annual Juried Exhibit at "The Mansion at Strathmore" in North Bethesda, Maryland.

DIANA PATTON has a one-woman show in the Milltown Municipal Building Gallery for the month of November, and has two works in the Essex Watercolor Club's Members' Show in the Morris County Library which runs until December 1st. Diana's students now have a show in the Somerset County Library until December 1st. RVAA members in this show include MARILYN CHAPMAN, AMY ERDMAN, BILL GILBERT, FRAN MARELL, JACQUIE PASTERNAK MAZUR, and SHIRLEY ODWARKA.

SONJA WEIR has a one-woman show at the Pingry School Gallery in Warren for the month of November.

The Tewksbury Historical Society Juried Art Show had quite a few RVAA members in it, including DORIS BATEMAN, KATHY BLAIR, MARGE BRAUN, MARY ANN CREASY, ANGELA FEHRENBACK, SUSAN FUREY, BILL GILBERT, RITA GORKY, ELSA HERRMANN, RAE HOFFMAN, FRAN MAURER, DIANA PATTON, JOAN RAUSHI, ELIZABETH RYMAN, and MARY VACCARO. ELSA HERRMANN was given the Joan Day Memorial Award for her work "The Magic Shop". In the Pro Division SUSAN FUREY was awarded Honorable Mention in the Abstract Category. In the Non-pro Division MARY ANN CREASY was awarded Second Place in the Animals Category and DORIS BATEMAN was awarded Second Place in the Florals Category.

DOUG AXMANN, KATHY BLAIR, SUSAN FUREY, DIANA PATTON, DEBBY SEMOUR, and DEBBIE TINTLE had their work accepted into the juried Mountain Art Show.

Now, before we go on to the forms for our upcoming events, I want to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving! Happy Hanukkah! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Do send me your news!

RVAA HOLIDAY DINNER

I,-----, will be attending RVAA's
Holiday Dinner. Enclosed is my check for \$26. made out to RVAA, with the word dinner in the memo
part of the check (because Doug also collects for membership) My phone number is-----
I am bringing a guest(s)-----
Total money enclosed-----

Please mail to Doug Axmann, 16 Schoolhouse Lane, Somerville, NJ 08876 (722-1925)

RVAA HOLIDAY SHOW AND SALE

At the Somerset County Library

I-----am planning
to be in the RVAA Holiday Show and Sale. If you enter 1 painting only, you only have to showsit 2
hours; if you enter more than one (as many as can fit) you showsit 6 hours (at different times, if you
wish). I am entering a) one-----b) more than one-----painting. I enclose a check made
out to RVAA for \$10.I have (number of)-----racks to share and can bring them
Wed.Dec.1st between 6 and 7 pm. Phone number-----

HOLIDAY SHOW/SALE RULES

Wednesday, December 1, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Racks/screens delivery only. No paintings.

Thursday, December 2, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Paintings delivery only. The entrance fee is \$10.

One work from each member will hang on the curved wall. Others will be in the cases and on racks throughout the library. Your screen space will be assigned in the order in which your application is received, using a floor plan of the library. We need to know in advance how many people will be loaning racks/screens, and those people will be sharing them with the artists who don't have them. Each artist is responsible for hanging their own paintings on Thursday night—please bring drapery hooks or s-hooks for hanging.

- 1) Please pre-register by Sunday, November 28, if possible. Membership dues must be paid.
- 2) Miniatures (8" x 10") will be put in the display cases on a space available basis. Each miniature should have a stand, provided by the artist, marked with the artist's name, and "not for sale"
- 3) Paintings over 8" x 10" will be hung on screens on space available basis. Standard screen panel is 36" x 72", and if space permits, those who bring their own screens will have 2-3 panels to hang on; those who are "borrowing" space, will have 1-2 panels to fill (in the past, there has been extra space, especially if the library puts up their old pegboard racks in the past, and then we can share these; you can always bring a few extra paintings in your car, if this happens, and hang them). Remember that one painting will also go on the curved wall.
- 4) Screens, and all parts of screens, should be labeled with the owner's name.
- 5) All paintings must be properly framed, wired, numbered, and priced.
- 6) No more than two works should be prints, because the library and our publicity bills this as a show of ORIGINAL ART WORKS (We're talking about photo prints, or giclees here, not the hand-pulled silk screen prints, or monoprints)
- 7) Bring a list of your paintings, even if you only submit one, on 8 ½" x 11" paper, with the titles, prices, and your phone number on it (keep a copy for yourself), because the Show Sit /Sales Book will hold all these. The paintings that are sold MAY BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY. The seller phones the artist and the artist is entitled to REPLACE THE ONE SOLD. The Show Sit Book is always kept at the Customer Service Desk.
- 8) All paintings sold must be recorded. 10% of the sale will go to the Somerset County Library. PLEASE READ ALL DIRECTIONS IN THE SHOW SIT BOOK when you come to show sit. All paintings should be for sale, except one is allowed to be marked NFS not for sale.
- 9) Artists displaying one painting only need show sit for one of the 2 hour slots. Those displaying more please sign up for three of the 2 hours slots (or six hours). If you sign up for show sitting and later find you cannot make it, it is your responsibility to arrange for someone to take your place.
- 10) You may display and sell your portfolio or small works, note cards, prints, etc. on or near the showsit table while show sitting. 10% goes to the library (all checks are made out to RVAA, and checks are mailed to the artists in January). You can sketch, write holiday cards, or just talk up the show and RVAA while you show sit.
- 11) Final removal of paintings will be Thursday, December 30th 4-6 pm.